

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 03310 070440Z

22-11

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05

ACDA-05 OMB-01 OES-03 /073 W

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P R 070417Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 431

INFO CNO

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3310

CINCPAC ALSD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, NZ

SUBJECT: VISITS OF NUCLEAR POWERED OR NUCLEAR ARMED SHIPS

REF: WELLINGTON 2969

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AT PRESS CONFERENCE NOV. 6 REGARDING FORTHCOMING MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE "TASMANEX/ LONGEX 75", PM ROWLING SAID PARTICIPATING USN SHIPS WOULD BE CONVENTIONALLY POWERED AND ARMED. "AS FAR AS ANY SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO NZ PORTS ARE CONCERNED OUR POSITION IS QUITE CLEAR. WE ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR PROPELLED AT THE MOMENT AND CERTAINLY MORE STRONGLY TO VESSELS THAT MIGHT BE CARRYING A NUCLEAR WEAPON ENTERING NZ TERRITORIAL WATERS AND NZ PORTS AND BELIEVE THAT OUR ALLIES RESPECT NZ'SVIEW ON THIS SITUATION."

2. ASKED WHETHER THIS POLICY IS STILL UNDER REVIEW, ROWLING REPLIED: "WE HAVEN'T GIVEN A DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO THE REQUEST THAT CAME MONTHS AGO AS YOU WILL RECALL ON THE MATTER OF NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS . . . WE  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 03310 070440Z

HAVE SO FAR SAID, NO NUCLEAR SHIPS PROPELLED OR SHIPS

CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONRY AND THAT'S THE SITUATION WHICH STILL STANDS." PRESSED FURTHER, ROWLING SAID HE WOULDN'T PUT A TIME FRAME ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER TO THE REQUEST "BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME COUNTER QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE ASKED AND THIS KIND OF EXERCISE, WHICH I THINK YOU WILL AGREE HAS A LOT OF IMPONDERABLES IN IT AND IT IS NOT ONE THAT IS LIKELY TO BE RESOLVED LIGHTLY, NOT BY US BECAUSE OF THE STANCE THAT WE HAVE TAKEN IN THE PAST ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION GENERALLY."

3. PRESS IS REPORTING PM FLATLY STATED NZ WOULD NOT ALLOW NUCLEAR POWERED OR ARMED SHIPS TO VISIT NZ AND SAID GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET GIVEN U.S. DEFINITE REPLY TO ITS REQUEST "TO SEND NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS ON A GOODWILL MISSION (SIC)."

4. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, ROWLING HAS NOW TAKEN POSITION BEFORE THE ELECTORATE WHICH FORECLOSES POSSIBILITY THAT LABOUR GOVERNMENT IF RE-ELECTED NOV. 29 COULD PERMIT VISITS BY NUCLEAR-ARMED USN SHIPS, AND WHICH ONLY BARELY LEAVES DOOR AJAR FOR EVENTUAL APPROVAL OF VISITS BY USN SHIPS WHICH ARE NUCLEAR PROPELLED BUT NOT NUCLEAR ARMED.

5. EMBASSY SUBMITS THAT IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE US-NZ MILITARY COOPERATION UNDER ANZUS OF PM ROWLING'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE RAISED PROMPTLY BY DEPARTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR WHITE IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS BY AMBASSADOR SELDEN WITH GNZ IN WELLINGTON. WE CAN ANTICIPATE BEING TOLD THAT ROWLING MADE HIS STATEMENT IN HEAT OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE SUCH A RESPONSE BY STATING AT THE OUTSET THAT U.S. IS NOT IN ANY WAY ATTEMPTING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN CAMPAIGN BUT IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED OVER ROWLING'S PRONOUNCEMENT, WHICH APPEARS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPAIR, IF NOT BAR, MEANINGFUL MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND NZ IN THE FUTURE. (END CONFIDENTIAL)  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MNUC, MARR, NZ, US, (ROWLINGS, P M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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